



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

December 6, 2001

H.R. 700

Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on November 8, 2001*

SUMMARY

H.R. 700 would reauthorize, through fiscal year 2007, appropriations for projects to conserve Asian elephants at the existing authorization level of \$5 million annually. (The current authorization expires after fiscal year 2002.) Section 6 would extend the authorization of appropriations for federal payments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Foundation from 2003 through 2005. This section also would increase the annual authorization level for payments made to the Foundation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) by \$5 million for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2005. Under existing law, a total of \$25 million is authorized for such payments for fiscal year 2003—\$20 million from the USFWS and \$5 million from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Assuming appropriation of the amounts authorized by H.R. 700, CBO estimates that the USFWS and NOAA would spend a total of \$38 million to fund ongoing Asian elephant conservation projects and Foundation activities over the 2002-2006 period. (An additional \$7 million would be spent after 2006.) The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 700 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 700 is shown in the following table. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the entire amounts authorized by the act will be appropriated for each fiscal year. We assume that payments to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will continue to be made by the USFWS and NOAA in the same year that the funds are appropriated. Outlay estimates for Asian elephant conservation grants are based on recent spending patterns for that program. The cost of this legislation falls within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Spending Under Current Law					
Budget Authorization Level ^a	10	25	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	10	25	0	0	0
Proposed Changes					
Estimated Authorization Level	5	10	35	35	5
Estimated Outlays	5	8	35	35	5
Spending Under H.R. 700					
Budget Authority/Authorization Level ^a	15	35	35	35	5
Estimated Outlays	15	33	35	35	5

a. The 2002 level is the amount appropriated thus far for that year for Asian elephant conservation (\$1 million) and for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Foundation (\$9.2 million). The 2003 level is the amount authorized to be appropriated for payments to the foundation under current law.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 700 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On May 18, 2001, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 700 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 16, 2001. Our estimate of spending for projects to conserve Asian elephants is the same under both versions of H.R. 700. The version approved by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works also would authorize appropriations for grants to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Foundation, increasing the estimated cost of the legislation by \$70 million through 2005.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Deborah Reis

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller

Impact on the Private Sector: Lauren Marks

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis